

GENERAL NOTES.

Sterna paradisæa.—A Correction.—The specimens of Tern obtained by me in Cape Breton were carelessly referred to this species, and I have hitherto neglected making correction. The birds are all *S. hirundo* and my remarks in 'The Auk,' Jan., 1887, p. 14, apply to *hirundo*.—JONATHAN DWIGHT, JR., *New York City*.

The Wood Ibis in Indiana.—Since sending my paper on the birds of Carroll County, Indiana,* to 'The Auk,' I have learned of the occurrence of the Wood Ibis (*Tantalus loculator*) in that County.

On July 30, 1887, a specimen of this southern bird was shot by a Mr. Harmon at the 'Maple Swamp' mentioned in connection with the Great Blue Heron and the Prothonotary Warbler in the above-named paper. The specimen is now in the possession of Dr. O. A. J. Morrison, of Middle Fork, Indiana, where I saw it last December. I could not learn that any other specimens were seen with this one by Mr. Harmon, or that any others have ever been seen in that locality. This, so far as I have been able to learn, is the most northern Indiana record of this bird. Indeed, it has been seen but rarely in this State. The first Indiana reference seems to be that of Dr. Rufus Haymond in the 'Proceedings' of the Philadelphia Academy for 1856, p. 295, and again in the 'Indiana Geological Report' for 1869, p. 229. In these two publications Dr. Haymond mentions the occurrence of a large flock of Wood Ibises along the White-water River, near Brookville, Indiana, in August, 1855. He states that one of these was crippled and brought to him, and that he kept it as a pet for about six weeks. "In that time it became very tame, learned its name, and would come when called. We fed it upon living fish, which it would swallow with amazing rapidity, except catfish, which required labor and time to dispose of. It died from having eaten a mackerel which had been placed in a basin to soak." There is a skull in the possession of a lady near Brookville, Indiana, which Mr. Amos W. Butler tells me he has seen, and which he thinks was from a bird killed from the flock seen by Mr. Haymond in 1855.

The next definite record is that furnished by Dr. F. Stein of Mount Carmel, Illinois, who says he saw a single pair at 'Little Chain,' about ten miles west of Mount Vernon, Indiana, about 1874 or 1875.

Last September I saw a mounted specimen in a store window at Mount Vernon, Indiana, and, upon inquiry, learned that it was shot by a fisherman, Dexter Short, about October 30, 1887, at Hovey's Lake, Posey County, Indiana. There were about thirty-five or forty in the flock, "the first ever noticed in the County," according to the fisherman. They remained in the vicinity for four or five weeks and then disappeared.

*Auk, V, 344-351; VI, 22-30.

Several of them were killed, but I could learn of but the one that was preserved. It is now in the possession of Mr. Jno. C. Leffel of Mt. Vernon.

On September 11, 1888, while engaged for the U. S. Fish Commission in exploring the Wabash River, I had the good fortune to come upon a flock of nine Wood Ibises at Mackey's Ferry, ten miles west of Mount Vernon. They were sitting in the tops of two dead trees just across the river on the Illinois side, and remained there during the entire time of our stay at the Ferry,—from about 8 to 11 A. M.

In addition to these, I find the following general references to its occurrence in Indiana. An old hunter of this city (Terre Haute) in whom I have confidence tells me that his father shot a Wood Ibis several years ago from a flock of several at the Old Reservoir south of Terre Haute. From the description given by the hunter I am quite certain he was not mistaken.

Ridgway, in his catalogue of the birds of Illinois, says the Wood Ibis is a summer sojourner in the extreme south of the State, and an irregular summer visitant in the northern portion. And in a letter to me dated January 26, 1889, Mr. Ridgway says:—"I remember, years ago, seeing these birds occasionally, soaring in circles, high in air, above the Wabash River, at Mt. Carmel, the season being, I think, midsummer. Again, either in summer or early fall, I started a large flock which had been perching on the branches of a large dead sycamore tree overhanging the bank of White River Pond, just below the mouth of the White River, but did not get any specimens. The species, to my certain knowledge, occurs more or less plentifully, at times, at the Cypress Pond in the southwestern corner of Knox County, [Indiana], but owing to the circumstance that I am so little in that part of the country, I am unable to state whether they occur there regularly or not. I believe that the species formerly bred in small numbers in that portion of the Wabash Valley, though I have no distinct evidence upon which to base this supposition. Most of the birds now seen there, however, occur there late in summer (August and September), a considerable portion of them, perhaps a majority, being young birds of the year." Mr. Ridgway further says that he saw "at Mt. Carmel, the dried head of one that was killed by a hunter at the Cypress Pond in Knox County," and that he has been "reliably informed of others having been killed there."

I may add that inquiry among people in Posey, Gibson, and Knox Counties seems to show that it is a very rare bird there,—one that is not often seen except by those fellows who are wont to prowl around secluded ponds and wade cypress swamps, looking for the unusual among animate things.—B. W. EVERMANN, *State Normal School, Terre Haute, Indiana.*

Additional Notes on the Bittern.—Mr. Torrey's notes on the 'Booming of the Bittern' interested me very much, and while in most respects my observations agree closely with his, I hope to be able to throw light on some particulars.